



George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
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June 03, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forest Service Announces Recreation Fee Waiver for National Get Outdoors Day

Roanoke, Va. – The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering a fee-free day on June 8 in celebration of [National Get Outdoors Day](#), an annual event to encourage healthy, active, outdoor fun. On the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, the fee waiver applies to all day use sites; however, fees will not be waived for overnight campgrounds and cabins, group picnic shelters, or recreation sites managed by concessionaires.

The Forest Service offers fee-free days four times a year. The first such fee-free period in 2013 was Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The other days are Sept. 28 for [National Public Lands Day](#) and Nov. 9-11 for Veterans Day Weekend.

Encouraging Americans to reconnect with nature, especially on public lands, is consistent with President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative that seeks to empower Americans to share in the responsibility to conserve, restore, and provide better access to our lands and waters, and leave a healthy and vibrant outdoor legacy for generations to come. National Get Outdoors Day also supports [Let's Move Outside!](#), First Lady Michelle Obama's initiative to raise a healthier generation by engaging kids and families in active, outdoor recreation across public lands and waters.

The pilot effort of National Get Outdoors Day was launched June 14, 2008, through a partnership between the Forest Service and the American Recreation Coalition. The partnership built on the success of More Kids in the Woods and other efforts to connect Americans – especially children – with nature and active lifestyles. Go Day, as it is sometimes called, now includes federal, state, and local agencies, key organizations and recreation businesses to create activities across the country.

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Forest Service lands contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone.

Descriptions and locations of all recreation areas on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests can be found on the forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj, or by calling 1 (888) 265-0019.

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